1: Warner E-5 (1926-1929)1937
OI 17 Murngin OI 17

201 Sleep—left hand to the head, with the head cocked on one side.
Dead—left hand with the palm half open, the thumb and finger forming a partly closed circle.
The end—move the hand from side to side before the face, then downward.
Run—fists clenched, with the two hands moving up and down in front of the chest.
Eat—gesture of holding food in the fingers and putting in the mouth.
To show dislike—turn the head to the right and shake it and push the left hand out to the side.
To announce the arrival of a number of people—move two hands over the face.
Drink—move the open hand to the head and put the head back.
Shedding blood for a totem—arms flexed and fingers like knife cutting under part of the arm.
Digging—elbow out at an angle with the hand pointing down and the fingers moving like a dog digging a hole.

APPENDIX VII

ANTHROPOMETRY

144 During the period of my field work in North Australia I measured close to four hundred aborigines. The geographical sections from which the groups came were the general areas around Port Darwin, the Victoria River, Melville and Bathurst Islands, the Murngin area (northeast Arnhem Land), and the southern part of the mouth of the Roper River. Generally speaking, it can be said that these natives show few differences from those of Central and Southern Australia; and there seems to be little or no connection between Australia and Melanesia or Papua or the other Pacific groups, with the possible exception of New Caledonia where there do seem to be indications of Australian relations. The results of the research are now being written up for future publication.[1]

141 The stature of the five geographical groups measured by me in North Australia varies from 166.50 centimeters to 169.62. The sitting height varies from 82.00 centimeters to 83.08. The biacromial, from 34.64 to 36.62. Chest depth, from 17.72 to 19.08. Chest breadth, from 23.40 to 24.90. Head length varies from 188.79 millimeters to 193.86. Head breadth, from 134.02 to 138.88. Head height, from 120.30 to 127.71. Head circumference, from

[1] See W. W. Howells and W. Lloyd Warner, "Anthropometry of the Natives of Arnhem Land and the Australian Race Problem," *Peabody Museum Papers*, 1933, Vol. XVI, No. 1.

1: Warner E-5 (1926-1929) 1937
OI 17 Murngin OI 17

529.10 to 542.06. Minimum frontal, from 104.50 to 108.78. Bizygomatic, from 137.90 to 143.25. Bigonial, from 101.66 to 107.50. Total face height from 109.80 to 113.65. Upper face height, from 61.45 to 65.50. Nose height, from 45.34 to 48.54. Nose breadth, from 46.88 to 47.48. Ear length, from 62.66 to 64.50. Ear breadth, from 35.25 to 35.94. Hand length, from 102.60 to 106.86. Total hand length, from 182.82 to 188.70. Hand breadth, from 79.90 to 83.86. Weight, from 121.40 to 130.50 pounds. 141

Relative sitting height varies from 48.64 to 49.64. Relative shoulder breadth, from 20.70 to 22.08. Cephalic index, from 70.14 to 73.50. Length-height index, from 63.23 to 67.07. Breadth-height index, from 89.78 to 93.29. Fronto-parietal index, from 75.01 to 78.58. Cephalo-facial index, from 93.11 to 100.64. Zygo-frontal index, from 73.94 to 79.22. Fronto-gonial index, from 97.00 to 100.95. Zygo-gonial, from 73.63 to 75.37. Facial index, from 77.66 to 82.30. Upper facial index, from 43.79 to 48.32. Nasal index, from 98.06 to 103.90. Ear index, from 56.06 to 57.50. Hand index, from 43.58 to 44.36.

APPENDIX VIII

MURNGIN MYTHS[1]

THE BRINGING OF FIRE

Caocoeil.a, in the days of Wongar, took a fire stick and rubbed it between his fingers, but he was very clumsy and broke it. He tried again and again to whirl it between his fingers so that he could make fire, for there was no fire in the world then, but every time he tried he broke the drill. 773

There were broken fire sticks lying all about where he had used them. He piled them all up into a big heap.

Baltjarda, the frilled-neck lizard Wongar, came along. He sat down and continued working on a small basket that he had started. Crocodile said to him, "You come try these fire sticks. My hands are all cut and bleeding from trying to make fire."

Frilled-Neck had some fire sticks of his own. He took them out of his basket. He said to Crocodile, "You don't hold the stick properly. You squeeze it too hard. That's what hurts your hands. You should press it with the bottoms of the palms of your hands."

Lizard then did as he told Crocodile to do and he made fire immediately. Crocodile said, "Waku of mine, it is a good thing you are my relative and it is a good thing that you made fire for us, for all people." He took some grass and rubbed it in his palms and put the new fire in it. He then

[1] A paper on the myths of the Murngin will be published later.

15:Chaseling M-5 (ca. 1934-1936)1957
O117 Murngin O117

CHAPTER FOUR

Men of the Stone Age

TANTALIZING mystery envelops Australia's Stone Age nomads, and the enigma of their history and Stone Age habits make them the most interesting of all primitive people. 173

Legends in east Arnhem Land refer vaguely to mythical ancestors from 'over the sea' and 'beyond the dawn', whilst hordes in the west believe that their creator came from beyond the sunset. A precocious Yulengor explained that his people had not hitherto understood the kind of canoe used by the legendary ancestors, but, he said: 'Now we know they came in the Ark.'

Scanty evidence suggests that long before the days of the Pharaohs, Stone Age men paddled their canoes through the chain of islands linking Asia to Australia, probably carrying all they possessed in the way of dingoes, spears, stone axes, a smouldering fire-stick and bark bundles of food. In Arnhem Land they live still as Stone Age hunters. 174

In appearance, aborigines are well built, and slim. Contrary to popular belief they are not tall, though a casual glance over hordes here and there in east Arnhem Land might lead to this assumption. In actual fact the average height of aboriginal men is two inches less than the five feet eight inches of the average Englishman; aboriginal women average five feet one inch in height. 141

Long forearms and shins lend to the illusion of height. A man will sit with a foot drawn in and his knee bent upright [516]

15:Chaseling M-5 (ca. 1934-1936)1957
OII7 Murngin OII7

in front of him, and in this position his knee-cap is on a level with his chin. Another habit, dependent on long shins and as common as the white man's hands-on-hips, is to stand on one leg with the other drawn up so that its foot rests above the other knee-cap. Anyone can laboriously do the trick but only a long-shinned aboriginal would find it comfortable.

Corpulence is not found in Arnhem Land, for Yulengor have little opportunity to put on weight where food is scarce, poorly balanced, and mostly roughage. Women spend most of their time hunting, and frequently travel twenty or thirty miles a day in their search for food. By carrying huge loads on their heads they acquire a unique poise and graceful carriage unknown elsewhere.

Men seem to have short necks, but this is due to chests being so well developed that they give the impression of being deliberately thrown out and upward. Back and pectoral muscles ripple the skin and the whole body tapers sharply.

Aboriginal hair is dark to black in colour, though on children's heads the tips are frequently bleached a reddish-brown. It is wavy and curly, but never fuzzy, and is fine in texture rather than coarse.

Eyes are set deep under beetling brows; pupils are smoky blue-black, and the rest of the eye is definitely not white, but rather veiled and blotched a yellow pastel shade. Finely chiselled ears lie close to the skull in both young and old; the nose, though deeply cut away between the eyes and uniformly broad, cannot be termed flat.

Aboriginal teeth are strong and well formed, and are astoundingly effective in snipping through bush rope, holding and straightening a spear in a vice-like grip, and masticating tough meat and fibrous foods. Teeth give little trouble and most of them are retained for life, even if worn down to the gums.